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TODAY'S OBSERVER ARTICLE IN PRAVDA MAY BE ONLY NEGOTIATING POSITION OR PART OF WAR OF NERVES BUT SHOULD I BELIEVE BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY. AS MATTER HAS DEVELOPED I WOULD NOW PUT OBJECTIVES OF SOVIET MOVE IN FOLL ORDER OF PRIORITY.

1. STRENGTHENING OF EAST GERMAN REGIME BY (A) REMOVAL OR REDUCTION OF THREAT TO REGIME OF WEST GERMAN ENCLAVE (ESCAPE ROUTE FOR REFUGEES, INVIDIUS COMPARISON ETC), (B) FORCED RECOGNITION OF GDR OR STEPS LEADING THERETO.

2 PREVENTION OF ACQUISITION BY FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF ATOMIC WEAPONS THROUGH RAPACKI PLAN OR OTHER MEANS.

3. FORCING OF HIGH LEVEL NEGOTIATIONS LOOKING TOWARD CONSOLIDATION OF STATUS QUO IN EUROPE.

DEPT WILL NOTE THAT ACHIEVEMENT FIRST OBJECTIVE COULD ONLY BE BROUGHT ABOUT THROUGH DRASTIC ACTION AFFECTING STATUS OF BERLIN. FOR EXAMPLE AS LONG AS ESCAPE ROUTE THROUGH BERLIN REMAINS GDR REGIME WILL BE SERIOUSLY THREATENED.

WHILE SOVIETS MAY PLAY THEIR HAND CAUTIOUSLY IT HAVE IMPRESSION KHRUSHCHEV IS MAN IN A HURRY AND CONSIDERS THAT TIME IS AGAINST HIM ON THIS ISSUE PARTIUCLARLY IN RELATION TO ATOMIC ARMING OF WEST GERMANY. THEREFORE BELIEVE WESTERN POWERS SHOULD PREPARE FOR MAJOR SHOWDOWN WITHIN COMING MONTHS.

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THERE HAVE BEEN NO INDICATIONS AS TO WHAT SOVS HAVE IN MIND
RE THREAT TO STRENGTHEN WARSAW PACT. POSSIBLE MOVE COULD BE
STATIONING ATOMIC MISSILES IN POLAND OR EAST GERMANY,
IF THIS HAS IN FACT NOT ALREADY BEEN DONE, BUT IN SUCH CASE
BELIEVE THEY WOULD BE KEPT IN SOVIET HANDS.

THOMPSON

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